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PCT

Date: May 11, 2005 I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "First Class Mail" service.

Donald S. Prater  
Name (Print)

Donald S. Prater  
Signature

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	Kataoka et al.	)	Examiner:	Unassigned
		)		
Application No.:	10/532,357	)	Group Art Unit:	Unassigned
		)		
Filed:	April 20, 2005	)	Confirmation No.:	Unassigned
		)		
Docket No.:	3600-502	)	Customer No.:	33432

For: NIOBIUM POWDER, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME AND SOLID ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR USING NIOBIUM POWDER

### INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

May 11, 2005

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to the current United States Patent and Trademark Office rules, no copies of U.S. Patents/Patent Application Publications are provided.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted before expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. *See* 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear

Information Disclosure Statement  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/532,357

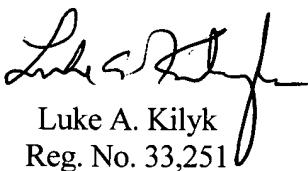
on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0925.

Respectfully submitted,



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Atty. Docket No.: 3600-502  
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Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/6 Documents

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 10/00)	Atty. Docket No. 3600-502	Application No. 10/532,357
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	Applicant: Kataoka et al.	
	Filing Date: April 20, 2005	Group Art Unit: Unassigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE, IF APPROPRIATE	
	4,684,399	08/04/87	Bergman et al.	75	0.5		
	5,234,491	08/10/93	Chang	75	622		
	5,242,481	09/07/93	Kumar	75	364		
	6,051,044	04/18/00	Fife	75	229		
	6,136,062	10/24/00	Loffelholz et al.	75	369		
	6,165,623	12/26/00	Fife et al.	428	472		
	6,171,363 B1	01/09/01	Shekhter et al.	75	369		
	6,338,816 B1	01/15/02	Fife	419	13		
	6,375,704 B1	04/23/02	Habecker et al.	75	229		
	6,387,150 B1	05/14/02	Naito	75	245		
	6,402,066 B1	06/11/02	Habecker et al.	241	21		
	6,420,043 B1	07/16/02	Fife et al.	428	472		
	6,423,110 B1	07/23/02	Naito et al.	75	232		
	6,430,026 B1	08/06/02	Nagato et al.	361	305		
	6,432,161 B1	08/13/02	Oda et al.	75	363		
	6,452,777 B1	09/17/02	Naito	361	303		
	6,483,694 B1	11/19/02	Monden et al.	361	523		
	6,521,013 B1	02/18/03	Naito et al.	75	239		
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	6,540,810 B2	04/01/03	Naito et al.	75	255		
	6,545,858 B1	04/08/03	Naito et al.	361	510		
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	6,616,728 B2	09/09/03	Fife	75	255		
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FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 10/00)		Atty. Docket No. 3600-502		Application No. 10/532,357	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT		Applicant: Kataoka et al.			
		Filing Date: April 20, 2005		Group Art Unit: Unassigned	

	6,660,057 B1	12/09/03	Naito et al.	75	252	
	6,661,645 B1	12/09/03	Sakai et al.	361	523	
	6,661,646 B2	12/09/03	Naito et al.	361	524	
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	6,671,164 B2	12/30/03	Naito et al.	361	311	
	6,679,934 B2	01/20/04	Rao et al.	75	245	
	6,689,185 B2	02/10/04	Naito et al.	75	252	
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	6,795,299 B2	09/21/04	Naito	361	509	
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	6,821,314 B1	11/23/04	Reichert et al.	75	255	
	6,824,586 B2	11/30/04	Omori et al.	75	255	
	6,835,225 B2	12/28/04	Naito et al.	75	245	
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	6,856,500 B2	02/15/05	Naito	361	305	
	6,862,169 B2	03/01/05	Kuroyanagi	361	523	
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	6,884,277 B2	04/26/05	Naito	75	252	
	6,890,363 B1	05/10/05	Sakai et al.	29	25.03	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	62-278210	12/03/87	Japan	B22F	9/24		no
	5-508686	12/02/93	Japan	C22B	34/24		no

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 10/00)	Atty. Docket No. 3600-502	Application No. 10/532,357
Applicant: Kataoka et al.		
Filing Date: April 20, 2005		Group Art Unit: Unassigned

	2001-345238	12/14/01	Japan	H01G	9/052	Abstract	
	1 291 100 A1	03/12/03	Europe	B22F	1/00	yes	

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

	International Preliminary Examination Report for PCT/JP03/13491, dated 1/25/05 (in Japanese)
	International Search Report for PCT/JP03/134991, dated 12/02/03 (in Japanese)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.